ploughed back export profit for next 5 years; Exemption from minimum alternate tax under section 115JB of the Income Tax Act; Exemption from CST and Service tax; Single window clearance for Central and State level approvals; Exemption from State sales tax and other levies as extended by the respective State Governments.

World class infrastructure facilities for Exporters

860. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to create world class infrastructural facilities to help exporters especially of textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) has been in operation since 2005. The basic objective of SITP is to provide world class infrastructure facilities to the textile industry. So far, 30 parks have been sanctioned under the SITP.

Additional administrative and regulatory staff for SEZs

861. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has so far accorded formal and in-principle approvals for more than 500 Special Economic Zones throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the commissioners of different SEZs have requisitioned additional staff both for administrative and regulatory work including personnel for excise and customs; and

(c) whether it would be more expedient, that creation of posts and posting of officials for SEZs be done alongwith the notification of an SEZ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The creation of posts for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) can be taken up only for notified SEZs. Sanctions for creation of 1526 posts have been issued during this year.

FTA with Brazil and South Africa

862. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has concluded talks with Brazil and South Africa with regard to entering into Free Trade Agreement (FTA);

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks;

(c) whether any negotiations have been held with regard to Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) as the part of FTA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Sir, India has not initiated negotiations for entering into Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Brazil and South Africa. However, negotiations have been concluded for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR (comprising of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) and negotiations are underway for a PTA with South African Customs Union, SACU (comprising of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia & Swaziland). India-MERCOSUR PTA and its Annexes have been signed on January 25, 2004 and March 19, 2005 respectively. Under this PTA India and MERCOSUR will grant tariff concession to each other on 450 and 452 tariff lines respectively. The PTA will come into effect after ratification by the legislatives of MERCOSUR countries which is awaited from Argentina and Brazil.

SEZs approved for Haryana and Uttarakhand

863. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many SEZ proposals have been approved for Haryana and Uttarakhand;

(b) which are the major industrial activities for which SEZs have been approved in Uttarakhand and Haryana separately; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a tourism SEZ in Uttarakhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In Haryana, 32 Formal approvals for setting up of Special Economic Zones for Electronic Hardware/IT/ ITES, textiles, engineering, bio-technology, and multi-services have been granted. In Uttarakhand, 3 formal approvals have been granted for IT/ITES and multi-product SEZs.

(c) No, Sir.

Low share exports in international trade

864. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country's share of export is very low in the international trade market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government to increase our exports in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per the latest data available from WTO, India's share in the world merchandise exports increased